

## Message Text

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TO AMEMBASSY SEOUL IMMEDIATE

USMISSION USUN NEW YORK IMMEDIATE

INFO AMEMBASSY TOKYO

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 227330

EXDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, US, KS, KN

SUBJECT: ROK FONMIN'S REPORTED STATEMENTS ON DEFERMENT

REF: SEOUL 7240

1. WE ARE SURPRISED AT ROK FONMIN'S PUBLIC INDICATION OF SUPPORT FOR DEFERMENT AND TOTALLY MYSTIFIED AS TO WHAT COULD HAVE PROMPTED STATEMENTS THAT SO CLEARLY COMPROMISE CORE GROUP APPROACH TO DEFERMENT QUESTION.

2. USUN SHOULD AT AMBASSADORIAL LEVEL EXPRESS TO AMB. MOON DEPARTMENT'S CONCERN THAT STATEMENTS HAVE BEEN MADE THAT TEND TO PREJUDICE OUTCOME OF AN IMPORTANT ISSUE THAT OUR TWO GOVERNMENTS AND CORE GROUP HAVE UNDER ACTIVE CONSIDERATION. WHILE OUR CHIEF CONCERN IS THAT PLENARY APPROVAL OF A DEFERMENT RECOMMENDATION HAS BEEN COMPROMISED, CONFIDENTIAL

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WE ALSO BELIEVE GENERAL COMMITTEE IS LESS LIKELY TO MAKE

FAVORABLE RECOMMENDATION FOLLOWING REPORTED ROK ESTIMATE THAT "WEST HOLDS MORE THAN HALF THE GENERAL COMMITTEE." PLEASE TELL AMBASSADOR MOON THAT WE WOULD APPRECIATE HIS CONVEYING TO FONMIN OUR CONCERNS. (WE NOTE THAT SHERER HAS ALREADY WARNED ABOUT FURTHER PUBLIC STATEMENTS.)

3. AT SEPTEMBER 15 CORE GROUP MEETING, MISSION SHOULD SEEK CORE GROUP VIEWS ON VIABILITY OF DEFERMENT STRATEGY. CLEARLY A MAJOR FACTOR IN THIS EVALUATION WILL BE ASIAN AND NORDIC RESPONSE TO APPROACHES AUTHORIZED AT LAST CORE GROUP MEETING. ASSUMING THESE ARE GENERALLY FAVORABLE, MISSION SHOULD NOT DISCOURAGE FURTHER CORE GROUP EXPLORATION OF DEFERMENT.

4. WHILE WE DO NOT WISH TO CONFRONT ROKG IN CORE GROUP, USUN SHOULD INFORMALLY TRY TO ASSESS WITH CORE GROUP MEMBERS THE EXTENT OF ANY DAMAGE DONE TO DEFERMENT STRATEGY. WE ARE INTERESTED, FOR EXAMPLE, IN WHETHER THERE IS ANY EVIDENCE THAT DPRK AND ITS SUPPORTERS ARE NOW ATTEMPTING TO LABEL DEFERMENT A SOUTH KOREAN MOVE. WE WOULD ALSO LIKE TO KNOW IF CORE GROUP MEMBERS BELIEVE GENERAL COMMITTEE WOULD MAKE A RECOMMENDATION THAT WOULD BE GENERALLY SEEN AS PRO-ROK. (FYI. OUR TENTATIVE ESTIMATE IS THAT PARK'S STATEMENT MAY HAVE MOVED TO ABSTENTION THREE PROBABLE "YESES" ON GENERAL COMMITTEE--OMAN (IF SELECTED), LESOTHO AND IRAN. ALSO, SUDAN MIGHT MOVE FROM ABSTENTION TO "NO". THIS WOULD IN OUR VIEW MAKE A TIE VOTE LIKELY IF UGANDA IS CHOSEN INSTEAD OF BOLIVIA.) FINALLY, DOES THE CORE GROUP BELIEVE THAT A MOVE FOR DEFERMENT AFTER DEBATE BUT PRIOR TO VOTING ON RESOLUTIONS OFFERS MORE CHANCE OF SUCCESS THAN DEFERMENT BY WAY OF A GENERAL COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION?

5. USUN SHOULD MAKE CERTAIN CORE GROUP IS NOT SO DISTRACTED BY DEFERMENT PROBLEMS THAT IT LOSES SIGHT OF MAIN OBJECTIVE OF OBTAINING SUPPORT FOR FRIENDLY RESOLUTION.  
ROBINSON

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